

Message Text

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TO CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

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FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: UPDATED Q'S AND A'S FOR LOS ANGELES APPEARANCES

CINCPAC FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL

1. KARAMI'S RESIGNATION AND DETERIORATING SITUATION
IN LEBANON.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON LEBANESE PREMIER KARAMI'S
RESIGNATION?

A; THOUGH MR. KARAMI HAS OFFERED HIS RESIGNATION, WE HAVE
SEEN REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT FRANGIE HAS ASKED HIM TO REMAIN
IN OFFICE. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED AND
CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PREMIER KARAMI'S EFFORTS TO END FIGHTING
AND FIND A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO TRAGIC SITUATION IN
LEBANON. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT END OF FIGHTING DEMAND
THAT ALL CONCERNED SHOW MODERATION AND SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE
ESSENTIAL TO BEGINNING OF POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION. SECRETARY
SET OUT U.S. GOALS IN HIS LETTER TO PREMIER KARAMI LAST
NOVEMBER. WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO A SOLUTION WHICH PRESERVES
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INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON, ITS

NATIONAL UNITY AND COHESION. WE ARE OPPOSED TO PARTITION OF LEBANON. WE ARE ALSO OPPOSED TO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE FROM ANY QUARTER.

Q: WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT DETERIORATING SITUATION BESIDES ISSUING PIOUS PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS?

A: THIS IS A VERY DELICATE TIME. OBVIOUSLY, WE HAVE HAD, AND CONTINUE TO HAVE, A NUMBER OF EXCHANGES ON SITUATION. NO ONE SHOULD BE IN DOUBT ABOUT HOW CONCERNED WE ARE ABOUT FINDING AN END TO FIGHTING IN LEBANON. BUT AS TO WHAT WE ARE DOING IN DETAIL, I CANNOT GET INTO THE SPECIFICS OF OUR DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS.

2. CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA

Q: WHAT IS DEPT'S LATEST FIGURE ON NUMBER OF CUBANS IN ANGOLA?

A: WE'VE SEEN PRESS REPORTS, QUOTING U.S. OFFICIALS, AS PUTTING TOTAL AT 9,000; DEPT'S ESTIMATE OF NUMBER OF CUBANS IN ANGOLA IS AT LEAST 8,000.

3. MPLA-UNITA NEGOTIATIONS

Q: ANY COMMENT ON REPORTS OF NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVING MPLA AND UNITA IN ANGOLA?

A: DEPT ALSO HAS NOTED THESE REPORTS IN MEDIA, BUT HAS NO INFORMATION THAT WOULD SUBSTANTIATE THEM. IN ANY CASE, IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR US TO COMMENT UPON THEM.

OUR POSITION REMAINS THAT OF STRONGLY FAVORING NEGOTIATIONS AMONG RIVAL GROUPS IN ANGOLA, HOPEFULLY LEADING TO A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THAT COUNTRY'S INTERNAL DIVISIONS AND TO FORMATION OF A BROADLY-BASED GOVT REPRESENTING ALL OF ANGOLAN PEOPLE.

4. LONDON STORY ON U.S. CONTACTS WITH PLO

Q: IS IT TRUE, AS REPORTED IN LONDON FINANCIAL TIMES, UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT USG HAS PASSED MESSAGES BACK AND FORTH TO PLO LEADERSHIP, SPECIFICALLY ARAFAT, THROUGH AN AMERICAN COLLEGE PROFESSOR FROM CONNECTICUT?

A: THIS STORY IS INCORRECT. WHILE INDIVIDUALS COME TO US FROM TIME TO TIME PURPORTING TO CARRY MESSAGES FROM PLO, I CAN STATE CATEGORICALLY AND WITHOUT QUALIFICATION THAT REPORTS IN THIS STORY ABOUT EITHER EXISTENCE OR SUBSTANCE

OF A PURPORTED DIALOGUE BETWEEN USG AND PLO ARE TOTALLY INCORRECT. AS STORY ITSELF SAYS, U.S. HAS NEVER AUTHORIZED ANYONE TO ACT, FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY, AS AN EMISSARY ON ITS BEHALF TO PLO. WE HAVE NO CONTACTS WITH PLO.

Q: WELL, COULD A VISITOR TO DEPT, AFTER TALKING HERE, HAVE PASSED OFF AMERICAN OFFICIALS' REACTION TO WHAT HE HAD TO SAY AS A RESPONSE TO WHAT PLO HAD TOLD HIM? IN OTHER WORDS, WERE INFORMAL MESSAGES PASSED BACK AND FORTH?

A: LET'S NOT PLAY WITH WORDS HERE. WE HAVE NO CONTROL OVER WHAT A PRIVATE PERSON MAY SAY TO ANY PARTY HE MEETS. WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT USG IS NOT CONDUCTING A DIALOGUE WITH PLO IN THIS OR ANY OTHER WAY.

5. VIETNAM - SENATOR MCGOVERN'S VISIT

Q: SENATOR MCGOVERN HAS STATED THAT VIETNAM IS ANXIOUS TO NORMALIZE ITS RELATIONS WITH U.S., AND IS TAKING A HIGHLY CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE TOWARDS US. WHAT IS U.S. PREPARED TO DO TO MOVE TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS?

A: PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY, ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, HAVE STATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO LOOK TO FUTURE IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH VIETNAM. AT SAME TIME, THEY HAVE INDICATED THAT ACTIONS AND POLICIES OF VIETNAM TOWARDS US AND TOWARDS THEIR NEIGHBORS WILL BE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS. THAT REMAINS OUR POSITION.

Q: WHAT SPECIFIC OBSTACLES STILL EXIST IN VIEW OF DEPT. TO NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS?

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A: TWO OF THOSE WHICH COME MOST READILY TO MIND ARE LACK OF INFORMATION ON OUR MIAS IN SEASIA AND THOSE AMERICANS WHO ARE STILL IN SAIGON AND ARE UNABLE TO LEAVE, EVEN NOW, ALMOST NINE MONTHS AFTER NORTH VIETNAMESE TOOK OVER.

Q: DOES THIS MEAN THAT IF THEY PROVIDE MIA INFORMATION AND LET AMERICANS LEAVE WE WILL ESTABLISH RELATIONS?

A: I WOULDN'T WANT TO SPECULATE ON THAT. OBVIOUSLY, WE WOULD CONSIDER THOSE TO BE POSITIVE ACTIONS.

Q: HOW ABOUT ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE, AS CALLED FOR BY SENATOR MCGOVERN?

A: AS WE HAVE STATED BEFORE, PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR

RECONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM LIES WITH THOSE WHO
SUPPORTED NORTH VIETNAMESE TAKEOVER OF SOUTH. AT SAME
TIME, I MIGHT NOTE THAT WE HAVE APPROVED SHIPMENT BY PRI-
VATE AMERICAN GROUPS, OF MORE THAN \$2 MILLION WORTH OF FOOD
MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN ITEMS SINCE
FALL OF SAIGON. SISCO

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